The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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## FACING the FACTS

*With* PHILIP PEARL

Now that Adolph Hitler is gunning for Joe Stalin instead of bumming with him, the Reds in this country are coming out of their holes into the open after a long underground sojourn. And, brothers, they are a sorry looking mess.

Take the case of the Greater New York Industrial Council, which says it represents 400,000 CIO members. Before Germany invaded Soviet Russia, this council opposed every defense measure adopted by the United States. It campaigned against the Lease-Lend Act, against the draft and against the policy of all-out aid to Britain. It supported the American Peace Mobilization. But now what a different picture the council presents! It voted the other day 199 to 1 for a resolution urging the Government to "give full and unstinted moral, financial and material support to the British, Soviet and Chinese people and to all those throughout the world fighting fascism." The resolution, a dead give-away, explained that the council's previous position was based upon the fact that the United States and Soviet Russia were then "neutral" in the war.

Joseph Curran, President of the CIO National Maritime Union and well-known Stalinite, is head of the New York Council. His own union also lost no time in following the new Communist Party line.

**New National Heroes**

At its recent, so-called convention, the N.M.U. reversed all its previous policies and demanded that this country extend aid to the Stalin regime. Suddenly patriotic, the N.M.U. startled the nation by demanding the immediate release from prison of Earl Browder, former secretary of the Communist Party in this country Browder, according to the N.M.U., is so able a fighter against fascism that the United States cannot afford to keep him in jail where he was sent for passport fraud.

After this, it was a very simple matter for the N.M.U. convention to hail Harry Bridges as a national hero and to demand that the Government drop its deportation proceedings against the Stalinite CIO leader of the West Coast.

Bridges, himself, produced a new wrinkle on the party line. In an address before the N.M.U. convention he strongly advocated all-out aid from the United States to Soviet Russia, but said he still opposed aid to Britain. And this is the man who has the gall to deny he is a Communist!

These examples of indecent exposure that we have cited would merely serve to confirm previous conclusions that there is a wide Red stripe in the CIO were it not for the fact that the top leaders of the CIO are also making an unholy show of themselves.

**Murray Takes Orders**

Philip Murray, titular head of the CIO, sent a letter to Mayor La Guardia of New York City the other day accusing the city administration of "an extreme anti-CIO attitude." The New York Times said "Mr. Murray was particularly critical of the inquiry undertaken by William B. Herlands, Commissioner of Investigation, into Communist influence in the Department of Welfare." It seems that the investigation involved some notoriously Red leaders of a CIO city employes union.

Now why does Mr. Murray rush to the rescue of the Reds in the CIO at every opportunity? Why does he attempt to rally the entire CIO organization in support of the Bridges defense? Why does he point the accusing finger at President Roosevelt and Mayor La Guardia, who are proven friends of labor? Mr. Murray is no Communist.

The answer is that John L. Lewis is giving the orders in the CIO and Mr. Murray takes them. The answer is that Lewis depends upon the Communists for support and with their support is still wielding dictatorial power over CIO policies.

These facts were apparent to the New Jersey State branch of Labor's Non-Partisan League when it revolted against the leadership of Lewis the other day and repudiated his policies. They should be made clear to CIO members everywhere. It is time they knew what the score is.

## Green Outlines Five-Point Program To Mitigate "Defense Unemployment"

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor outlined to the OPM a program of action necessary to prevent "defense unemployment" resulting from application of priorities to strategic metals and materials.

Using the aluminum industry as a pilot case, Mr. Green pointed out that dislocation of employment due to priorities "has been getting increasingly acute during the past few months and has now reached the proportions of an industry-wide crisis."

Stating that "the time for preliminary studies and investigation is now past and prompt and decisive action is imperative," Mr. Green called upon the OPM "to put into effect at once the following constructive plan of dealing with the situation":

1—In the communities most affected, conferences should be called immediately of representatives of the Defense Contract Service, assisted by engineers and specialists competent to make a complete plant production analysis, together with representatives of management and labor. The purpose of such conferences would be to formulate specific plans for placing suitable defense contracts which can put available equipment and labor to the maximum productive defense use.

2—Such plans for allocation of defense work should clear at once with all contracting agencies for immediate negotiation of contracts and sub-contracts. Contracts for plants in which substantial numbers of workers are threatened with unemployment because of priorities, should be given preferential clearance over other contracts.

3—It should be made clear to the management of each enterprise engaged in civilian production and affected by priorities, that unless full cooperation is extended by them for handling defense contracts within a specified period of time, the operation of such plants will be placed at the disposal of the Federal government to assure full use of machinery and equipment as well as full employment of available labor.

4—Where defense employment is available because of plant or production expansion in other industries in the same community, intensive programs of apprenticeship and vocational training should be promptly inaugurated to fit local labor to the jobs anticipated in other industries in the same community. All trainees should be assured training rates of pay sufficient to maintain them and their families and commensurate with the degree of skill they already possess.

5—Steps should be taken to safeguard future employment status of workers whose employment is interrupted by priorities. It should be made a matter of basic policy that seniority, established occupational classification, and basic wage and other labor standards, be assured to workers when they return to their normal jobs.

Mr. Green stressed that "in many communities in which plants subjected to priorities are the chief source of employment and income, lack of planned action today is already creating a crisis threatening bankruptcy of the entire community and a permanent dislocation not only of its finance but also of every phase of community life.

"Aluminum workers unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have put on record their unqualified and unreserved desire to give fully of their resources and cooperation in order to further the national defense program. The workers we represent realize that an emergency situation exists in which shortages of aluminum due to defense requirements have resulted in these special conditions.

"It must be emphasized at the same time that much of the distress and the impending waste of human and industrial resources can be avoided if the program outlined above is carried out by the government with full cooperation of management. The problem is essentially that of planning and financing methods by which priority employment can be prevented and by which equipment rendered idle by priority can be put to defense use. The American Federation of Labor believes that to achieve this is by no means an insuperable job and is eager to give you and every defense agency concerned full cooperation in carrying it out."

## U. S. Investigating Labor Conditions In Panama At Request of A. F. of L.

Washington, D. C.—The United States Government sent Lieut. James P. Mitchell, Labor Adviser to the War Department, to the Canal Zone to investigate wages and working conditions of employes of all contractors engaged in defense projects and other work there. He was accompanied by W. C. Hushing, Chairman of the A. F. of L. Legislative Committee.

Last December Mr. Hushing and Joseph McDonagh, Secretary-Treasurer of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, made such an investigation and reported very bad conditions existing there. Mechanics brought from the United States by contractors were being paid less than the rates paid in the continental United States and required to work overtime on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays without extra pay. They found the labor turnover to be more than 51% on account of these conditions with resultant delay of the defense program to say nothing of the financial loss due to the cost of bringing men to and from the United States at approximately $450 each.

The employes have been most restive under restraint but have refrained from striking upon the recommendation of the American Federation of Labor, pending correction of the complaints.

Senator Reynolds, Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, on June 16, 1941 introduced a bill (S. 1641) to correct the conditions complained of, but by agreement the legislation will be held in abeyance pending the new investigation.

## Meany Pledges Workers Will Make Great Arsenal of Democracy Here

### Climaxes Highly Successful "Aid British Labor Week" Drive With Broadcast

New York, N. Y.—Secretary-Treasurer George Meany of the American Federation of Labor climaxed the closing drive of "Aid British Labor Week" with a nationally broadcast address in which he declared that the workers of this country will fulfill their share of the responsibility for making America "the arsenal of democracy."

"Aid British Labor Week," conducted by the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor, proved a huge success. It was officially inaugurated by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, endorsed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, proclaimed by the Governors of twenty-two States and supported in enthusiastic fashion by workers throughout the nation. Other notable speakers who participated in the drive included Wendell Willkie, Mayor LaGuardia and Matthew Woll, Vice President of the American Federation of Labor.

It was estimated that the drive will produce hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions for the purpose of sending food, medical supplies and other necessary assistance to the courageous workers of Great Britain.

In his radio address, Mr. Meany said:

"We know what a grave responsibility rests upon the shoulders of American labor. We know that it is not at all farfetched to say that upon our ability to produce and deliver ships and guns and tanks and planes the fate of the world depends. We know that we cannot permit the bulwark that stands between us and Hitler's legions of destruction to be conquered by the Nazis.

"The workers represented by the American Federation of Labor give assurance that, just as the workers of Britain are not failing in the difficult tasks which they have before them, so shall we not fail in our job—the job of serving as the Arsenal of Democracy.

"We have been cooperating and we shall continue to cooperate with our national government 100 per cent in its program of national defense. A vast construction program of army cantonments, naval stations and defense factories has been carried through without a single serious delay. In the production of the planes and ships and other implements through which the destruction of Hitlerism will be accomplished we have made it possible for the rate of output to be stepped up many-fold in little more than a year.

"We have made many sacrifices and we shall no doubt have to make many others. We have avoided strikes in hundreds of cases in the interests of national defense, engaging in walkouts only where the attitude of the employer has made it difficult, if not impossible, to avoid strike action. And even in these cases of employer provocation of labor, we of the American Federation of Labor have, since the establishment of the National Defense Mediation Board, made use of the machinery of that Board and avoided interruptions of production.

"On this occasion of Aid British Labor Week, we American workers who are transforming the expression "Arsenal of Democracy" from a phrase into a reality extend the hand of fellowship across the water to our brothers in the last European outpost of freedom.

"Labor in Great Britain is making tremendous sacrifices for the preservation of the vital principles of freedom, liberty and democracy. We here in America, believing wholeheartedly in those principles, dedicate ourselves once again to do everything within our power to hasten the day when these sacrifices no longer need be exacted from the courageous workers of Great Britain.

"Knowing better perhaps than any other group of citizens what happens to the liberties which we cherish when democracy goes under and totalitarianism comes into power, the workers of America will not slow down until this job—this job for ourselves and for humanity—is done."

## Better Times Reported In New York; Defense Strikes Nil In June

Albany, N. Y.—The defense program has brought to New York State increased employment, higher wages and new capital investment, State Industrial Commissioner Frieda S. Miller reported.

Since June, 1940, nearly 300 new defense plants or additions to defense factories, costing $18,000,000, have been built, according to Miss Miller. The factory employment index is 116.1, compared with 1925-27 as 100, the year's rise being 30 per cent. The average wage is the highest in New York history, $33.75 a week, she said.

More than 450,000 jobs were filled by the State Employment Service since last June, the report said. More women and more semi-skilled workers are being employed.

Almost a "total absence" of strikes in defense industries during last June was reported to Commissioner Miller by Jules Freund, executive secretary of the State Mediation Board.

A "blight" on the picture, Miss Miller pointed out, was the sharp rise in industrial accidents accompanying the defense boom. A new high record of 528,000 accidents was set in 1940, she said, while the monthly totals now are still running above 50,000. Safety experts of the State Labor Department are working with employers and employe leaders to reduce the accident toll.

## Willkie Calls For National Unity At N. Y. "Beat Hitler" Labor Rally

New York, N. Y.—Wendell L. Willkie appealed to labor and management to suspend their grievances for the duration of the national emergency and to join the common task of "outproducing the forces of totalitarian dictatorships."

Addressing an overflow crowd of 5,000 trades-union members at a "Beat Hitler" rally in the Manhattan Center, Thirty-fourth Street at Eighth Avenue, at which he presided, Mr. Willkie declared that, in view of the present crisis confronting the nation, "this is not the day for capital and labor to fight."

"Let's can the arguments now," he urged. "Let's have them later, and produce now. Go out and do your damndest."

Mr. Willkie's appeal for national unity, made at the close of the rally, echoed similar appeals voiced previously by labor leaders, including Matthew Woll, Vice President of the American Federation of Labor and officials of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. Several CIO officials out of favor with the national CIO leadership, such as Sidney Hillman, Associate Director of OPM, also participated.

## A Tough Day For Denny Lewis

*(The following is reprinted from the Washington Merry-Go-Round:)*

It was a tough day for A. D. ("Denny") Lewis, loud-talking brother of hirsute John L.

Denny is head of the United Construction Workers, largely a paper outfit kept in existence by a $10,000-a-month dole from the CIO cash box. Several months ago, without the prior approval of Phil Murray but with the blessing of Brother John, Denny issued a charter to Minneapolis Local 554 of the General Drivers Union, whose Trotskyite leaders were about to be purged out of the AFL by scrappy teamster boss Dan Tobin.

With Local 554 under his belt, Denny became very cocky and boasted of a big drive on the AFL teamsters. Several of John L's "palace guard" henchmen were sent West to look over the situation.

Then came the deluge.

In Minneapolis a Federal Grand Jury indicted Trotskyite chieftains of Local 554 on charges of advocating overthrow of the U. S. Government through armed force. And in Washington, Defense authorities entered into an agreement with the AFL building trades unions, giving them sole representation on the construction stabilization committee—and leaving Denny's U.C.W. out in the very cold cold.

One of Denny's lieutenants, bewailing the double blow, remarked: "Who says lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place?"

## News Briefs

### TRACY PROMOTED IN LABOR DEPARTMENT

Washington, D. C.—Dan W. Tracy, one of the nation's ablest and most respected labor leaders, was accorded new honors when he was promoted by President Roosevelt from Second to First Assistant Secretary of Labor.

In his new job, he will succeed Charles V. McLaughlin, who has resigned, effective July 31, to take a "long rest."

Tracy, former President of the A. F. of L.'s International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, was "drafted" by "F. D." to the Labor Department position a year ago, as a right-hand man to Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins.

He has been a trusted adviser to the President on labor problems, and the Department's liaison man with the Office of Production Management on vital defense matters.

### LABOR JOINS IN DRIVE TO FIND ALUMINUM

Washington, D. C.—President William Green appealed to all State Federations of Labor and city central bodies to join in the drive to collect scrap aluminum to remedy temporary defense shortages of the metal.

Women members of the American Federation of Labor and the wives of members can help especially in this work, Mr. Green said.

### 16,800 STUDENTS IN ILGWU SCHOOLS

New York, N. Y.—The educational department of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union reported that 16,800 students had attended more than 700 classes and groups held by the division during the fiscal year ended May 31. Ten members received scholarships for the Summer schools run by the Pacific Coast School for Workers and the Hudson Shore Labor School, West Park, N. Y. Six union institutes at the University of Wisconsin, Southern Summer School and at Hudson Shore were attended by 325 students.

Among the subjects discussed at the study classes were trade union problems, public speaking and parliamentary law, labor union history and current events.

### DEFENSE PROGRAM AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Washington, D. C.—An important disclosure was made before the Senate Defense Investigating Committee by Under-Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson.

He declared the defense program is ahead of schedule and by September industry will be on a mass-production basis. No details were revealed.

### OLD COMPANY UNION FACES EXTINCTION

Washington, D. C.—One of the nation's biggest and oldest "company unions"—a 22-year-old "dummy" union on the Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company, claiming 15,000 members—faced early extinction by the NLRB.

A National Labor Relations Board examiner, after conducting a prolonged investigation into the fake union, as a result of charges filed by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, recommended that the "dummy" be outlawed.

### AIRCRAFT WAGE HIKE WON BY MACHINISTS

East Hartford, Conn.—Wage increases averaging five cents an hour were announced for 25,000 employes of the three manufacturing divisions of United Aircraft Corporation, adding $4,200,000 to the annual payroll. The wage increase is the third in seven months.

The wage increases for employes of the propeller company were put into effect through an agreement with the International Association of Machinists, Lodge 743, affiliated with the A. F. of L. Sidney A. Stewart, general manager of the plant, said that the agreement provided for an increase of ten cents an hour in the base wage rate of all hourly rated employes, except apprentices, students and trainees.

### PENNSYLVANIA WAGES REACH NEW PEAKS

Philadelphia, Pa.—The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia disclosed in its monthly business review that factory workers in Pennsylvania received $33,000,000 in wages in June—a 54 per cent increase over June of 1940 and the largest payroll for any month on record.

The bank reported a total of 1,100,000 workers were employed in the month, a 24 per cent increase over the corresponding period last year, while hourly earnings reached a new high of 81 cents, more than eight cents above the level a year ago.

### DRIVE ON REDS URGED

Washington, D. C.—Intensification of the drive against Communism in this country was called for by the Washington Central Labor Union.

Hitler and Stalin were termed "fellow murderers" by the A. F. of L. central body in a resolution calling for "all out aid to Britain."

## Labor's Vast Service To Defense Ignored By Press, Green Declares

### Cites Many Instances of Union Co-operation Under Hardships in Testimony Before Congressional Committee

Washington, D. C.—Organized labor is rendering vast services to the national defense program without a cent of cost to the Government, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor told Congress.

At the same time he declared that workers are patriotically carrying on despite shocking hardships which can and should be eliminated.

These revelations were made before the Tolan Committee investigating defense migration to which President Green submitted a survey of working conditions in defense industries which was described by independent observers as the most comprehensive and illuminating ever prepared by a labor organization.

Mr. Green pointed out to the committee that workers for the collosal task of constructing 46 Army cantonments, which are virtually cities in themselves, were "furnished by the unions affiliated with our Building and Construction Trades Department without any cost to the Government or contractors."

He also stressed the contributions to the defense program made by the Metal Trades Department. He cited as an example the case of the International Association of Machinists, which recruited men from every part of the country for work in Navy Yards, arsenals, airplane plants and other vital defense industries.

Another notable example, out of dozens mentioned by Mr. Green, was that of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which worked out with Government defense agencies a detailed procedure for organizing labor supply to avoid local shortages and to "prevent wasteful and aimless flocking of workers to areas where jobs are not ready for them."

Mr. Green emphasized that organized labor has not received credit in the newspapers for its indispensable cooperation in the defense program.

He declared that while the Government has given generous incentives to business to cooperate in the defense program, workers have given their services without inducements and under severe hardships in many cases. Among these hardships he listed:

1—Failure to pass legislation protecting the old age pension and unemployment insurance rights of workers drafted into the armed services.

2—Failure to protect many of the 200,000 new workers drawn to Navy Yards and arsenals from jobs in private industry where they enjoyed pension and unemployment insurance rights now jeopardized.

3—The same failure with respect to migratory construction workers who are moved from one defense site to another and lose important rights because under State unemployment insurance laws wages earned in one State are not credited in another.

Mr. Green also emphasized the shocking housing conditions and soaring rents in booming defense areas, the lack of hospital and school facilities and other similar hardships which workers are undergoing. These conditions were surveyed State by State and city by city.

Another witness before the committee was Chairman Arthur J. Altmeyer of the Social Security Board, who recommended an eight-point program for liberalizing the social security laws to provide for health insurance and end the 50-50 matching of Federal and State funds.

### PRO-UNION VOTE HITS NEW RECORD IN JUNE

Washington, D. C.—Anti-union propaganda in the press, in Congress and on public platforms hasn't fooled the workers, National Labor Relations Board reported.

During June, over 90 per cent of 134,107 workers who voted in collective bargaining elections cast their ballots for representation by unions.

This pro-union percentage was declared to be the highest for any month in the six years since the board began operating.

## WAGE BOOSTS WON BY 53,000 WORKERS

### But Federation Survey Warns Of Price Inflation

Washington, D. C.—Wage increases reported during June aggregated almost six million dollars a year for 53,006 workers organized in 238 locals of American Federation of Labor unions.

However, the American Federation of Labor's monthly survey of Business warned that fast rising food costs may wipe out these gains and make the condition of workers even worse than before.

The threat of price inflation menaces the family budget more dangerously than at any time since the last war since the average rise of food costs has been eight per cent since a year ago and in many cities from 10 to 13 per cent, the survey showed.

Labor losses by inflation and wages cannot keep pace with rapidly increasing living costs that come during inflation periods, the survey said. It warned also that inflation usually is followed by even more serious deflation with widespread wage cuts and unemployment.

"If we do have a serious price inflation today," the survey continued, "added to the vast dislocations of industry and workers caused by the change to mass production of modern war machines, America stands to lose a great deal more than jobs and wage standards. We know how the 1933 depression closed our banks and wiped out millions of dollars in workers' savings, bankrupted thousands of farmers and businesses, threatened to undermine our institutions. We know how serious depressions abroad caused the overthrow of democratic governments in country after country, brought Hitler and his regime to Germany. A serious price inflation in America could bring incalculable disaster. What can be done?"

In answering that question, the survey declared that while some form of price control is vital, wages must not be included in its sphere. Wages are not prices, it was emphasized.

Labor can help, the survey advised, by obtaining full information on company income and costs before seeking wage increases so as to prevent commodity price boosts based on higher labor costs.

Workers also can help to prevent inflation by investing increased earnings in defense savings bonds and not causing upward spirals by excessive luxury purchases.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO NEW JERSEY LABOR HERALD

Newark, N. J.—Celebrating its second anniversary as a member of the labor press of the American Federation of Labor, the New Jersey Labor Herald is preparing to issue an elaborate Labor Day and Convention Edition on the occasion of the Sixty-third Annual Convention of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor, to be held the week of September 6th, at Atlantic City, N. J.

The issue will carry special articles from many of the nation's labor leaders, including President William Green, Spencer Miller, Jr., Director of the Workers Education Bureau of America, and Matthew Woll, American Federation of Labor Vice President. Lewis M. Herrmann, of Newark, chairman of the New Jersey Federation of Labor Public Relations Committee, is editor of the publication.

## Green, In Message To Norwegians, Pledges U. S. Help For Social Justice

Washington, D. C.—In a message to the downtrodden workers of Norway, bowed under the yoke of their Nazi conquerors, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor pledged the help of America in obtaining a just peace after the present war is over.

His message, broadcast over short wave radio from Station WRUL in Boston, said in part:

"Prior to the invasion of your country the flag of freedom waved proudly. Your people enjoyed all the precious freedoms of a free democratic state. In your great nation democracy lived on a fertile soil enriched by the fibre of courage, discipline and tolerance.

"Now your brave country is occupied by the forces of human savagery. The same aggressor forces who struck at peaceful Norway have also menaced the freedom and liberty of every democratic nation, and lighted the flames of racial and religious hatreds all over the civilized world.

"Our nation faces the most serious crisis in its history. As workers devoted to the ideals of our country we are deeply concerned. Many of us came here from your land and other lands across the seas as immigrants. And many millions of us are the sons and daughters of immigrants who came here because America promised them an opportunity for protection against tyranny of any kind and equal rights before the law.

"Our government has been faithful to the one hundred and fifty year old preamble to our constitution. Our people recognise more and more that the fellowship of man knows no boundaries. Our people hope that the heroic resistance of the Norwegian people with those of other enslaved nations will be victorious, and in the end tolerance, reason and justice, liberty and freedom will again prevail in your once happy land.

"The millions of workers in the American Federation of Labor will join with you, our friends in Norway, when a lull in the battle comes, to create together not an armistice, but an enduring and just peace among the nations of the world and among the peoples of all nations. We shall join with you and help in every way to translate economic progress into social justice throughout the world so that the blessings of peace on earth and good will among men may become real and universal."